



AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND FACILITIES TO DISCLOSE ESTIMATED COSTS OF TREATMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 3] may be cited as the "Patient's Right to Know the Costs of Medical Procedures Act".

Section 2. Legislative purpose. The purpose of [sections 1 through 3] is to provide health care consumers with better information on the cost of their medical care and to introduce elements of competition into the marketplace.

Section 3. Disclosures required of health care providers. (1) Upon request of a patient or a patient's agent, a health care provider, outpatient center for surgical services, clinic, or hospital shall provide the patient or the patient's agent with its estimated charge for a health care service or course of treatment that exceeds \$500. The estimate must be provided for a service that a patient is receiving or has been recommended to receive. The estimate must be provided at the time the service is scheduled or within 10 business days of the patient's or agent's request.

(2) The patient or patient's agent may request that the information required under this section be provided in writing or electronically.

(3) The estimated charge:

- (a) must represent a good faith effort to provide accurate information to the patient or the patient's agent;
- (b) is not a binding contract upon the parties; and
- (c) is not a guarantee that the estimated amount will be the charged amount or will account for unforeseen conditions.

Section 4. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 3] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 50, chapter 4, part 5, and the provisions of Title 50, chapter 4, part 5, apply to [sections 1 through 3].

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 0263, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

HOUSE BILL NO. 263
INTRODUCED BY C. SMITH

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